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ing. At the last general election in Massachusetts, both the house and the senate were pledged to pass a bill for the advisory initiative. Recently the house has favorably reported a public opinion bill. The campaign for the direct vote system is also being carried on in some of the southern States especially in Arkansas and Virginia. The recent action of the Oklahoma constitutional convention in adopting the initiative and referendum with only five dissenting votes indicates in some measure the enthusiasm with which the system is being advanced throughout the United States.

Special Jury Act. Recent experience in Illinois in empaneling juries has created a strong sentiment for a change in the law relating to the selection of juries in that State.

In the noted Gilhooly case three months were consumed in securing a jury at an estimated cost of \$18,000 to the county of Cook. The Cornelius Shea trial was a close second to the Gilhooly case and required eleven weeks to empanel a jury.

The Civic Federation, joined by ex-Judge Philip Stein, representing the Chicago Law Institute, and by Mr. Keene H. Addington, representing the Chicago Bar Association, took up the question of a law to reform the system of selecting juries, and appointed a committee of prominent lawyers to report upon the matter. The report of this committee is embodied in the special jury act (S.—no. 33) now before the Illinois legislature at Springfield. The bill as framed seeks to profit by the experience of the State of New York on the same subject and to avoid the weakness of the original New York law. In brief, the purpose of the bill is to do away in a large degree with the examination of veniremen in court to determine their qualifications as jurors, such examination being made by the jury commissioners, in counties having such a commission, or by County boards in counties having no jury commission, and thus weeding out those manifestly disqualified before being called into the jury box. The act provides for a special jury list, the number of names to be determined by the judges of courts of record in their respective counties. The qualifications of jurymen remain the same as formerly. Every veniremen must be personally examined by the commission and if found qualified is placed upon the special jury list. When a juror has served on a trial he is exempt for one year. The granting of a special jury is discretionary with the court, and the number of challenges is reduced.

Those favoring this bill cite the results of the New York law to sub-

stantiate their claim that such a law will shorten the time and lessen the expense of trials and will produce a class of jurors much superior to the average panel. The opponents of the bill make the claim that the remedy lies not in a change of laws but in a change in the conduct of the trial lawyers, trial judges, and citizens summoned to sit as jurors. They call attention to the fact that the proposed bill does not prevent full and complete examinations of veniremen as to their fitness to act as jurors, and that trial lawyers might extend such examinations as long as under the present conditions.

FRANK W. LUCAS.

Labor of Women and Children. During the closing days of the last session, congress appropriated \$150,000 for an investigation into the industrial, social, moral, educational and physical conditions of woman and child workers in the United States. Special attention is to be given in this investigation to hours of labor, terms of employment, health, illiteracy, sanitary and other conditions surrounding their occupation, as well as the means employed for the protection of their health, person, and morals. The inquiry will be conducted under the supervision of the commissioner of labor.

Local Option. The crop of liquor bills for the current legislative sessions is as usual very large, affecting nearly every phase of the traffic in liquors. The States of Illinois, Colorado, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and South Carolina have considered, or are considering, general local option, and both Colorado and South Carolina have adopted it; the latter abandoning the experiment of the State dispensary. Residence district option modeled on the Ohio law, or ward option on the Indiana plan, is the chief aim of the anti-saloon elements in those States which already have township or county local option. New York is having a repetition of the struggle of last year for residence district or city ward option. Wisconsin, New Jersey and Illinois legislatures have each before them bills for residence district option, while bills prohibiting sale within certain districts near schools, churches and camps are pending in several States.

JOHN A. LAPP.

Mortgage Taxation. The question of mortgage taxation has caused and is still causing economists, the legislatures and the courts as well as the borrowers and lenders of money a vast amount of diffi-